

## **Local Companies Donate Flu Prevention Products to Their School District**

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FOLCROFT, PA - Joined by two businesses that manufacture antibacterial products and are based in the community, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) spoke to students from first through fifth grades at the Delcroft School about simple steps they can take to prevent the spread of disease including swine flu. At the event, the Folcroft companies presented supplies of their products to the Southeast Delco School District. The Bullen Companies provided its instant hand sanitizer, which is proven to kill the H1N1 virus (also known as swine flu), and can be used repeatedly throughout the day without causing dry skin because of a special formula that does not contain as much alcohol as traditional hand sanitizers. LithChem contributed the dispensers it manufactured to distribute the hand sanitizers.

"I commend the generosity and thoughtfulness of these truly practical donations to the youth of their community by The Bullen Companies and LithChem," said Congressman Sestak. "Their idea for this gift demonstrates a great deal about the character of their leadership. Not only have they contributed to ensuring healthier students during a precarious time, but they have also offered an important educational opportunity to help children learn the good habits that can make anyone less susceptible to disease."

Following the Congressman's remarks, the presentation was made by the companies' representatives: Rod Bennett, National Sales Manager for The Bullen Companies and Jim Gormley, Senior Research Engineer at LithChem.

In addressing the importance of preventative actions – such as hand washing, not sharing personal items, and staying home if you are sick – with students and teachers, the Congressman talked about related lessons he learned during his 31 years serving in the U.S. Navy.

"When you are in command of a ship, as I am so fortunate to have been, one of the greatest threats to your crew is the spread of disease," said Congressman Sestak. "Everyone is

contained in such a small space and the risks of not taking full precautions to avoid and contain disease are enormous.”

Of the 7,000 swine flu cases that have occurred in Pennsylvania since the first in April, 5,000 have happened since September 1 and many thousands more people have had flu symptoms but not sought medical treatment.

“We must all think about our own safety and that of those around us as we remember to consistently take the time for preventive measures,” said Congressman Sestak. “The availability of the H1N1 vaccine has slowed across the nation and children are among the groups most at risk. Furthermore, the regular flu season is upon us. I encourage every school to consider ways to engrain preventive actions into their students to protect them individually, their families and those around them.”

The Southeast Delco School District, located adjacent to the City of Philadelphia in Delaware County, serves approximately 4,200 students residing in Collingdale, Darby Township, Folcroft, Glenolden, and Sharon Hill. The Delcroft School is one of four elementary schools with approximately 575 students in grades first through eighth during the 2008-2009 school year.

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, the Congressman was the first Director of Deep Blue, the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the Global War on Terrorism. He served as President Clintons Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Congressman Sestak is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.*